[Mr. Chairman]

अभी कोई सदस्य खड़ा हो जाएगा और कहेगा कि आप दोनों यहां क्या साजिश कर रहे हैं, बताइये ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अगर उस साजिश में आप शामिल हो जाएं तो फिर सदन को बताना चाहिए।

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION ON THE SITUATION IN SRI LANKA— *Contd*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to respectfully and sincerely thank all the Members who have participated in a very important debate on a very important subject. Earlier the Prime Minister had made a statement on the latest developments in Sri Lanka and also participated in a discussion that followed after he had made his statement. Many of the points that were raised which were worrying Members were dealt with by the Prime Minister during his comprehensive statement. The debate has provided the Government an opportunity to look at the various ramifications of the situation that we find in Sri Lanka.

Shri Upendra has drawn your attention to the observations made by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka in the Sri Lankan Parliament yesterday. I have studied his statement and I hope to refer to it in the course of my intervention and I am grateful to him for drawing your attention to this particular matter. Now in the House present are one former Minister, one former Minister of Information and Broadcasting and other Ministers. I would like to say at the very beginning that while Government shall give the fullest information to this House, we function under certain well-known constraints and established norms of diplomatic confidentiality. Therefore, the House will agree that we have to respect these conventions in public interest.

(The Deputy Chairman in the Chair)

Now, let us be quite clear as to what is at stake in Sri Lanka. I have very carefully read what was said yesterday. I was also present in the House. Madam, with your kind permission I would like to put one or two matters in perspective. First of all, I would request hon. Members from the other side to read the Prime Minister's statement carefully. In that statement he has made it clear as to what are the issues involved and what is at stake in Sri Lanka; (1) the interests of the Tamils; (2) the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and (3) our own security concerns and those of the region. From this flow all other matters and he dealt with them extensively.

Secondly, I would very respectfully draw the attention of the hon. Members to the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. Now, this matter had been debated several times in this House and demands were made from the other side as to what was the Government of India doing when violence was going on in Jaffna and in the Eastern Province and nothing was being done by the Government of India to put an end to this. We were asked to go and march with Navy and the Air Force and take a military decision and find a military solution. But the Government resisted this because we were convinced then and we are convinced now that there has to be a political solution to a complex and complicated issue which arouses emotions and passions not only in Sri Lanka but in parts of this country also as if there has been a dereliction on the part of the Government to have taken military action. So after very careful deliberations and considerations with detailed result of amateurish activity on the part of Sri Lanka we arrived at a stage when Sri Lanka and India could sign this Agreement. To say that the Agreement is a result of amaturish activity on the part of the Government of India is to do grave injustice to the Government and to do grave injustice to the people who have spent a lifetime in studying these matters and are in touch with the day-to-day events. Just as I was coming to the House, I was presiding over a meeting of the core group where the seniormost officials of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the civil side meet to monitor what is happening here and in my absence, this group sits under the

Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary, meets everyday and reports to the Prime Minister. So, to say that we have gone into this in a cavalier fashion is to do grave injustice to Government and if I may say so, smacks of a grave sense of irresponsibility for people who make these kinds of statements. They ought to know better.

Now, what does the Agreement say? The Agreement says, in the event, that the Government of Sri Lanka request the Government of India to afford military assistance to implement these proposals, the Government of India will cooperate by giving to the Government of Sri Lanka such military assistance as and when requested, Article 2.16 (c). Article 2.16 (e): the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka will cooperate in ensuring the physical security and safety of all communities inhabiting the northern and eastern provinces This is the mandate that has been agreed to jointly by two sovereign Governments. It has been asked, on whose behalf, had Mr. Rajiv Gandhi signed this Agreement. He has signed it on behalf of the Government and people of India who have elected him as the Prime Minister till the next General Elections are held. It is as simple as that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Nobody contradicted that. *(Interruption)*.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you continue your speech. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Madam, it is your duty and responsibility to ensure that our discussions are conducted in an orderly manner. I was completely quiet throughout this debate and listened very patiently. I leave it at that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Minister, I am here to listen you. You cannot expect us to keep quiet. It is the right of the Members to interrupt and seek clarifications when you are misleading the House. *(Interruption)*.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): There is no right to interrupt.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Now, I would also like to say that we have to study the Agreement and see what has happened since the 29th of July. Members had raised various issues with regard to what transpired in the other House and in this House. Now, Madam, I have respect for the shrines of the other men's minds and I would like to satisfy them as far as I possibly can if only they would have the patience to listen to what I am trying to say because we are also gravely concerned with the issue of Sri Lanka. It is a matter with which we are grappling every single day and trying to see that the objectives that we have in mind. the hon. Members have in mind, the world has in mind, that is to have peace amity and tranquillity in Sri Lanka so that the political processes, which are indicated in the Agreement are implemented.

Now, I will mention to the House that sometimes ago, I had gone to Vietnam and I had requested the Government of Vietnam to arrange a meeting for me with General Giap, the hero of Dien Bien Phu in 1954 and I asked him because it is very relevant to what is happening here. People asked, all right, you have gone in, what happens next..... *(Interruptions)* Madam, do we have a running comentary or do we have a statement?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please go ahead.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I sympathise with you. I asked him as to what was it that made Dien Bien Phu succeed against the might of the French Empire and he said that there were four elements. Military No. 1, political No. 2, administrative No. 3 and economic No. 4. Military action has to be followed immediately by political action, political action by adminsitrative arrangements and then economic blue-print. Now, the endeavour and the aims of the Government of India in Sri Lanka are that once the military exercise was over—the IPKF had gone

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three to disarm and now appeals are made as to why we should not accept cease-fire.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please keep quiet now, Mr. Gopalsamy. Your interruptions will not go on record.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: What the IPKF are doing even today is, they are not taking the initiative in firing, they are responding to LTTE fire There is not even one single ins ance when the IPKF had taken the initiative.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sit down, please. It is not going to be recorded.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Madam, I shall ignore every single interruption of the hon. Member.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Without your permission when some hon. Members interrupt our Minister, I would like to know whether you are permitting them to go on record.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already told that it will not go on record.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: There is nothing unparliamentary. Why should it not be recorded?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: That is the privilege of the Chair.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, Mr. Gopalsamy. It is unparliamentary to interrupt every now and then. It will not go on record. Once in a while I can understand. If you do not allow the Minister to reply, that is unparliamentary. You have to listen. Since you have raised the discussion, you have to listen to the reply. That is your duty as a Member of this House. Please sit down.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Now, the objective is that we would like the political process to begin. Yesterday the Parliament of Sri Lanka has, by an overwhelming majority, two-thirds majority, in one case unanimously because the opposition had walked out, passed the amendments and now the President has to make an executive anouncement saying that the had been accepted by the Government of Sri Lanka. If you read the Agreement, every single item is taken care of. Paragraph 19.12 says, "residual matters not finalised during the above negotiations shall be resolved between India and Sri Lanka etc. etc.". Now, we have not been able to keep the time frame because of what has happened in the last few weeks in Sri Lanka. We want the political process to begin. That is why we are appealing to the LTTE to lay down their arms They have said so in their letter dated 29th September to the High Commissioner. Join the political process, have your own Government, have your own Chief Minister, have your own officials, have your own people in your police force, have your own university, your own planning commission, judicial mechanism, and when this political process starts, then naturally vested interests grow up for people to see that this thing works. If you do not want to join the political process, if you do not want to respect the word of the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka and you resort to violence, what are we left to do? Other groups and population of Jaffna say, "Please save us from the situation: you are a peacekeeping force here." Then they want that the adminsitrative machinery for the east and north should be established at the earliest possible so that normalcy can return, electricity supply can be restored, sewage can start functioning, municipal and administrative work continues smoothly, following that the economic programme for the reconstruction and rebuilding of the economy of the north and the east which had been destroyed. This is the objective and this is the aim. If hon-

*Not recorded.

ourable Members have any other view in mind, if they can offer any other alternative, they are welcome. I have heard a great deal of criticism with regard to what negotiations we had with the LTTE. The Prime Minister made it very clear, I have made it very clear. Jaswant Singhji yesterday referred that I had spoken laudably about LTTE and Prabhakaran. Yes, I did, because I think in the month of July they had acted in a manner which was commendable and we are unable to find why after the 29th September when they signed that agreement with the High Commissioner of India, they have taken the stand that they have. We do not consider the LTTE as our enemies. We would like to recognise the role they had played. Without their efforts we could not have reached a situation where this agreement could have been born. But then they wanted the total elimination of other Tamil groups, they refused power sharing, they wanted to have sole, complete, control. Well, there are others involved in the exercise. You cannot ignore the Muslims. You cannot ignore the Sinhalese. You cannot ignore the other Tamil groups? And what is the objective of a revolutionary exercise or a movement or a struggle? It is to get political power and then put your policies into force. Every political exercise is a compromise. This agreement has not been drawn by angels: it has been drawn up by human beings and the agreement is as perfect or is as imperfect as we human beings are. But I would request the honourable Members to let me know if they have an alternative if we do not go on. You have asked us: What is the Government of India doing? All right today we pull out. What will be the situation in Sri Lanka? What will be the situation in Jaffna? What will happen in the eastern province in Sri Lanka? Will Tamil interests be safeguarded if we pull out? Will the security of the region be ensured if we pull out? Will the unity of Sri Lanka be maintained? When the unity of Sri Lanka is threatened, what happens in this country? That is why we have taken this step. And that is why it has been hailed the world over. To say that 49 countries of the Commonwealth have approved of this in any light-hearted manner is unfair to the 49 countries who are in the Commonwealth. I will read out from the Commonwealth communique and let me assure you, Madam Deputy Chairman, and the House that the delegations of India and Sri Lanka had no hand in this. When there was a general consensus, drafts were prepared and shown. The relevant paragraph reads like this:

> "The Heads of Government welcomed the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement recently signed by the President of Sri Lanka and the Prime Minister of India as an act of the highest statesmanship. They were happy to know that the Agreement meets the legitimate aspirations of all the people in Sri Lanka within a democratic system of Government."

It goes on like this. The President of the United States has welcomed it. I do not know of a single nation—there are 159 members in the United Nations—which has criticised this agreement. There is only one country and the Prime Minister named it yesterday. Similarly, when we were in Kathmandu, all the other countries wanted a reference to this. We did not ask for it and President Jayewardene did not ask for it. It came from other countries, again resisted by one country. Of the 159 members of the UN, not one has criticised this accord, this agreement. Now you want to belittle this? Then I can say that I am asking, we are asking, for the support, for the understanding, of our friends opposite. We are hoping that the Sinhalese in Sri Lanka, all communities in Sri Lanka, will take the long-term interests of Sri Lanka and the Tamils and all others and see that this agreement is fully implemented.

Now, the other day, in his intervention, my colleague and friend Shri Madan Bhatia, gave a detailed Constitutional and legal analysis of this agreement. It is a great pity that it has not been reported in the papers But I would request the honourable Members, all of them, to read this very carefully because here he was speaking not as a member of a particular

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party, but he was speaking as an Indian, and he carefully analysed all the lacunae and the flaws in this agreement. Once again I repeat the aims and objectives are simple: Tamil welfare their rights and their future, in prosperity and peace, are to be ensured, and the unity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka is to be maintained and also the security environment. Now, Mr. Bhatia has, in his intervention, said: "Suppose we had not gone in for this or suppose this agreement did not exist and the rebellion in the North continued unabated. It is quite obvious that the Sri Lankan forces were not capable of dealing with this insurgency. Then President Jayewardene, to protect the integrity and sovereignty of his country, could have asked for outside help." His is a sovereign and independent country and he is entitled to do so. He could have asked Pakistanis to come there. Would that be in our interests? He could have asked for a much bigger intervention from Israel or other countries hostile to India whom I do not want to name. Would that be in our national interests? I do not think so. It is as clear as that. So, we say, "Yes, this is a unique agreement.". I am not saying this in an euphoric manner because I do consider euphoria on this matter something non-adult. We are dealing with grave and serious issues. But it is a unique issue. You have agreements among the socialist countries, among the NATO powers, where the forces of one country enter another by agreement. But of a non-military power, of a non-aligned country, I do not think there is any. And, to say that we are fighting a proxy war for Mr. Jayewardene is wrong. We are not fighting any war. There is no war in Sri Lanka. I think it is gravely unfair to say that the IPKF is fighting a war on the soil of Sri Lanka. We have not gone there for fighting a war. We have gone there to keep the peace. For the great Indian army it would not take very long to deal with a particular group. That is why the armed forces of Indian have made the sacrifices that they have made and they are fighting in response to a situation with extreme restraint I have just spoken to the Vice-Chief and I have read out certain things. He has said that it is simply untrue. There are high standards and high values and high traditions and we are not going to do anything which will soil our traditions or which will bring dishonour to this country and to the traditions of the armed forces. We want to finish this as early as possible and as peacefully as possible and go on with the process.

Now that the legislation is over in Sri Lanka in Parliament, I appeal to the LTTE and I appeal to all the friends of the LTTE. I am grateful to General Aurora for the suggestion he has made in his speech. He has said that the "stop-and-go" policy is also not desirable. He was thinking that the people are asking for a cease-fire and, so, if you go in for a cease-fire now and then come back, that is not desirable. And Jaswant Singhji also said the same about the cease-fire, because having been in the Army he knows what this involves. Gen Aurora asked: why not join in urging the friends of LTTE, to use their diplomatic skill, to persuade the LTTE to give up violence? I fully endorse what the General has said. We are in touch with the LTTE, and if there are Members in the House, please exert your influence in the name of peace, better understanding and goodwill so that this agreement can be implemented.

I know Members have been keeping their ears close to the ground on this issue. I would like to quote from Winston Churchill. During the war he said:

> "What fate awaits nations and individuals who take an easy popular course or are guided in defence matters by the shifting winds of well-meaning public opinion? Nothing is more dangerous than to live in the temperamental atmosphere of a Gallon Poll, always feeling the pulse and taking one's own temperature. I see that a speaker at the week-end said that this was a time then leaders should keep their ears to to the ground. All I can say is that the British nation will find it very hard to look up to leaders who are detected in that somewhat ungainly posture..... There is only one duty, only one safe course, that is, to try to be right and not to fear to do or say what you believe to be right."

Therefore, Sir, I would humbly beg the House to allow the Government to proceed with singleness of purpose and inflexibility of resolve so that we can find a permanent solution not only of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka but to ensure the integrity and sovereignty, independence and unity of Sri Lanka and to safeguard the security concerns not only of India but of this region.

I would go on, Madam, at great length. But I think I have placed before the House the background of this agreement, what this agreement stands to achieve.

Now, with regard to what the distinguished Prime Minister of Sri Lanka has said, strictly speaking, it is for President Jayewardene to quote and ask his distinguished Prime Minister for an explanation I have got Mr. Premadasa's speech here. He piloted the Bill and then he said I am totally against the merger of the northern and the eastern provinces. I pray that the referendum will not allow the merger to remain. I will do everything within my power to stop this merger. All I can say, with very great respect, is that the distinguished Prime Minister is serving neither the long-term nor the short-term interests of his country and his people. I am sure President Jayewardene and other colleagues will address themselves with this particiular, problem. The fact remains that the Prime Minister voted with his party . (*Interruption*) We have the voting pattern here with us. In one case it was 136 to 11; in the other case it was 138 to nil because the Opposition walked out. I can also read out what Mr Bandarnaike said. They are not the most elevating or very inspirting words that he used about India. But I will not go into the details about it. All I am saying is that we should look at this not in a narrow way; we should look at it in a national way. It is a national matter. I am not here to score any debating points That is why I refrain from taking up individual matters that have been raised because my attempt here is... (*Interruption*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, he has not at all answered the basic questions. He has taken more than 20 minutes. He has not answered any of the basic questions we have raised in the discussions. (*Interruptions*) Madam, I initiated the discussion. I raised three very basic questions. He has not come to those questions. When the Chair directs me not to interrupt, I abide by it, bu there is no purpose of giving a reply without answering the questions which have been posed on the floor of the House. I initiated the discussion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can speak. But let me first find out whether his reply is over. After that, if you want to seek some clarifications, I will permit.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): May I request the Minister to yield for a minute because he is dealing with a particular subject. You have dealt with only one observation of the hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. But there are three other serious charges. I would like you to claify. They are very important from our national point of view. Mr. Premadasa accused the Indian Peace Keeping Force of genocide in Jaffna and said: "There is nobody who accuses India of genocide. Whatever faults big people do, no one speaks about them." Mr. Minister, the second charge made by Mr. Premadasa is this. He said: "The Government had been told that the IPKF would solve the terrorist problem by December 4. I hope so because then we will be able to pack them back home." You have to clarify whether you have given such an assurance that by December 4. you will finish this and come out of Sri Lanka. This is a very serious thing. We have gone there to accomplish a task. Will you be there until the task is finished? The whole nation is looking at it. You mentioned about Bandarnaike. He alleged that the IPKF had massacred Tamilians who had nothing to do with the LTTE and that over 4 lakh people in Jaffna were refugees. One more point, Madam. He charged the IPKF with entering mosques and Buddhist temples in the South and beating the Muslims in the mosques. These are very serious charges. I hope the Minister will clarify them.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I am very glad Shri Upendra has raised these points. I will refer to them. When we had a telephonic conversation with our

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High Commissioner last night and again this morning, I asked him to send the extracts from the speeches made in the Sri Lankan Parliament. With regard to the accusations made by Mr. Bandarnaike—totally baseless and unfounded—, I talked to the Vice-Chief. I don't want to bring in the Armed Forces here. I wanted this information before coming to the House. Every single accusation that is made is incorrect. It is very unfortunate that a responsible person should have elected to say what he said about it.

With regard to the statement by the distinguished Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, anyone who says that the IPKF is indulging in genocide...

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Are you officially lodging a protest against Sri Lankan Prime Minister's observations?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Yes, we will. He made it last night. Our High Commission is in touch. We are analysing the whole speech. The reason why I did not reply to the debate yesterday, as the hon. Member knows, was that at 5 o'clock they were going to have a vote on it. It was very important and crucial that these two Bills should be approved by the Sri Lankan Parliament. Then come the other things. This was a crucial test. If they had not passed, then this Agreemen would have been in very serious difficulties of a constitutional nature and they would have had to find some other way to over it. Now, this very vital and important hurdle has been crossed. We will take up the statements made by the distinguished Prime Minister. The important thing is that he made these observations, but he voted with the Bill. He did not vote against it. If he had done that, there would have been a serious problem between him and President Jayewardene. Therefore, for me to say anything beyond what I have said with regard to what has been said by the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka is difficult. Everybody will appreciate that I cannot say anything.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: What about December 4?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: This is another matter, as to how long are we to stay there and as how long is the IPKF going stay there. Now, I wish, Madam, quite honestly, I could give a straight answer. They are there at the invitation of the President of Sri Lanka who is an Executive President. It is my understanding that the President of Sri Lanka is the Executive Head of the Government of Sri Lanka, and with all due respect, no other individual is. So, I would request the hon. Member not to read too much into what Mr. Premadasa has said and about the date that he has laid down we would like to come back as early as possible.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: (Andhra Pradesh): He is openly attacking India, to the Indian Government in the Sri Lankan Parliament.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: We have attacked him in our Parliament many times.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: He has not said it outside, but he has made that statement in the Sri Lankan Parliament against the Indian Army and against the India!

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: This is what we are going to bring to the notice of the President of Sri Lanka who heads the Government. In the Unitary system of Sri Lanka—they do not have our system—it is the President who matters.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Madhya Pradesh): But I have a simple question. I am glad that the hon. Minister has yielded. Why only December 4, why not December 5 or December 25?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I think, he has said 4 and 5.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Has that date been discussed?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: No.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Is there any tacit understanding?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I can categorically say that there is no understanding. We are there under the relevant articles of the Agreement. And we are there at the invitation of the Government of

Sri Lanka, presided over by Mr. Jayewardene. And we are jointly committed to the implementation of the Agreement. I do not want to say anything more. One or two other matters which I would touch, Madam, with your permission, are about land, about the devolution package and the refugees and the colonisation.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I asked one main question: Why the war broke out why the conflict broke out? That was the main question. My whole speech is based on that question. How did it take place? When the 17 LTTE men were arrested and 12 of them had to die taking cyanide capsule, what was the Government doing? Is it because the Government of India gave instructions to Colombo to take them from Palali camp and the IPKF was withdrawn from Palali these 12 people had to die? Mr. Venkateswaran made a statement in Delhi yesterday. He has made this charge, he has made this accusation against this Government that due to the instructions from Delhi these 12 people including two commanders were about to be taken from Palali to Colombo and that is why they swallowed the cyanide capsules and died. They swallowed the cyanide capsules and died because India wanted to threaten the LTTE, wanted to have a bargaining point, wanted to bully them. That is why it gave instructions to remove these 12 people to Colombo Is it a fact that IPKF cordon was withdrawn from Palali on 5th October? What is your answer to this charge?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Madam, this particular matter has been discussed in this House. The Prime Minister has referred to it in his reply. I have referred to it in the other House

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The Prime Minister said that they were arrested because they were having machine guns.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are getting up again and again.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, he is evading my question. The Prime Minister said that they were taken by the Sri Lankan Navy. And here is the Agreement. According to the Agreement, the Sri Lankan Navy and Armed personnel should be confined to their barracks as on May 27, 1987. According to the Agreement they should have been confined to the barracks. Then why were they arrested? Why the IPKF allowed them to be taken to Colombo? Is it because of the instructions?

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Madam, it is a valid question and it should be answered.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Madam, we had taken up this matter with the Government of Sri Lanka.... .

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: That is the main point. This triggered off the whole explosion. This is the major cause for the conflict. This is the cause for the bloodsheed. This is the cause for the killings of the Tamils. That is why I said that it is a major question. He cannot evade it. He should categoricaly give a reply whether the Indian Government gave instructions to the IPKF to withdraw the cordon from Palali....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you want a reply or not?

SHRI V GOPALSAMY This is the whole thing Blood-bath is taking place becouse of this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you want to hear the reply or not?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: He should give an answer. He should not evade this question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then you sit down.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: He should not evade this question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down (*Interruptions*). No, you are not listening.

SHRI M M. JACOB: Let him wait till the Minister completes his reply. It may be coming out in the course of the Ministr's reply.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Madam, we have said this at the time and we are

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saying it now. We brought it immediately to the attention of the Sri Lankan Government and told them that they should no do so. They did not take our advice.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Then why IPKF was withdrawn from the area? Whether it is a fact that IPKF had put a cordon in the camp...(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. He has said what the reply is.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: He has not replied.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has replied.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: He should reply to this question.

SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG (Gujarat): Madam, please allow me to put my point of order मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न यह है कि इस सदन के सभी मेम्बरों का अधिकार है कि जो भी मंत्री हमारी बहस पर उसका रेप्लाई देते हैं, वह हमको अनडिस्टेरेप्टेड सुनने का अधिकार है। हमारे अधिकार का अधिग्रहण अगर और कोई मेम्बर करना चाहते हैं, तो मैं यह समझता हूं कि यह सदन की गैर-व्यवस्था है। मेडम, मैं आपको यह भी याद दिलाना चाहूंगा कि एक मेम्बर साहेबान को इसी गैर-व्यवस्था करने के कारण सदन से एक दिन के लिए निष्कासित किया गया था। अगर यही व्यवस्था कायम रही तो यह हमारे अधिकारों का अधिग्रहण है। इसलिए मैं आपसे मांग करता हूं कि ऐसे मेम्बर जो सदन की कार्यवाही को धरम भरम करना चाहते हैं, उनके खिलाफ सख्त कार्यवाही की जाए।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: *He asks me to go out. He speaks in Hindi. He says that I should be named to withdraw from the House. Do it; ;who worries about it? We are speaking because of grief.

I know what for you want to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr Gopalsamy, please come back to your senses. Please behave yourself.

SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG: **If he has a right to speak, don't we enjoy the same right? In order to maintain order in the House, he should be named. Our rights are being encroached upon Madam, if such Members do not appreciate the rules of the House, they must be named This is my demand and I hope it will be accepted.

(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Both of you please sit down now. You should listen now. You see, there is a limit to interruption also. If you go on interrupting like this, that crosses the limit of interruption and it amounts to obstruction to the right of reply of the Minister. Mr. Gopalsamy, you have initiated the debate and now you are not ready to listen to the reply.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Even after forty minutes, he has not given me the reply.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am on my legs, you may therefore, please sit down. You may not agree. When you said certain things, probably the Minster also did not agree with your views. But he did listen patiently. And, therefore, he has listened to it. You may not agee to what he says But that does not mean that you will not allow him to reply. Therefore, listen to him now. This is a very important matter on which not only you but the whole country wants to know what the Government is doing about it and what the policy of the Government is. Therefore, the Minister is giving the reply to the whole country and not only to one Member It is to the whole House and to the country that he is stating what the policy of the Government is. Therefore, you please do not obstruct. Otherwise, I will have to take a very serious view Mind you, please

*English translation of remarks made in Tamil.

**English translation of remarks made in Gujarati.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Madam, this matter was raised again and again, again and again I have said that we have brought it to the attention immediately but to say that everyhing hinges on the incident is native and simplistic and was this the answer to LTTE to kill 200 innocent civilian children because of the suicide.?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Thousands were killed in Delhi when Madam Gandhi was killed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, sit down. Now you won't interrupt hereafter.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I am very glad you have taken a stern attitude, because this really is quite extraordinary. We sat down here listening to him for one whole hour and he had said in this House that IPKF was committing genocide. This House allowed him to say this.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA. No, Premadasa said that.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: We have taken it up with him. Mr. Upendra, do two wrongs make a right?

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA. A responsible Prime Minister who knows things in Sri Lanka said that, and you are giving a third-hand information. Here is the Prime Minister of the country telling this, not Upnedra or Gopalsamy.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Are you agreeing with him?

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: When the Prime Minster of the country said it. What can we say?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I said it was most reprehensible. I can go into more details but I do not want to say what the LTTE has been doing. We have got every single detail. They are gruesome; they are killing Indian forces But I am interested in large interests I am interested in seeing this agreement being implemented, so that we can get on with th political processes, so that peace and stability in Sri Lanka can be restored. We do not want a single day's violence. All that we asked them was to surrender arms and abide by the accord. The Prime Minister has said this and we have said it repea edly.... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gopalsamy, I will have to take action against you. Please keep quiet.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Therefore, I want to conclude by. ..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: On behalf of Sri Lankan Tamils...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): You are speaking against your own army. What is this? Your shouts cannot make it right. You are speaking against our own army (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Yes, against our army...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I don't know what kind of person you are.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You can say anything and everything...(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit diwn. No more cross talking.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Yes, it is not important for me....(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will have to ask you to withdraw from the House otherwise.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Yes, life of my own kith and kin who are dying there is more important ..(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: For the last time I am reminding you. Mr. Gopalsamy. What is this? You are not obeying the orders of anybody or the Chair also. When you sit in the House, you have to observe the rules of the House. Nobody is allowed to talk now except the Minister who is replying.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA. (Uttar Pradesh): But he should answer the points.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am asking everybody to sit down. Only the Minister will reply and nobody will interfere; it will not go on record. Mr. Tytler you also sit down. Nobody should interrupt.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: It is unfortunate that Members should have elected to use this solemn occasion for producing disorder in the House because very grave issues are at stake. I want to conclude by saying that it is the endeavour, the attempt, the hope and the prayer of this Government, and I am sure the House will join me in this that through this agreement we will achieve both the short term and longterm interests of the citizens of Sri Lanka, particularly our Tamil brothers and sisters who have for the past many decades, been deprived of their basic rights to which they are entitld. We feel and we are sure that this agreement ensures that they will be treated as equal citizens, that they will have their own Government under one province of the North and East, that the unity, territorial integrity and the sovereignty of Sri Lanka will be maintained and that the security environment which is of very vital concern to this country will be such that forces hostile to India will not be fishing in the troubled waters in and around Sri Lanka. If you read the leeters, you will see that they ensure these things. It is our effort, everyday, to see that the military operation which has been forced upon us is stopped and that the LTTE, which had, in the beginnig, shown such courage and understanding, would come forth even at this stage. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is in touch with them. Some of our people are also in tuch with them. We are endeavouring to see that they come back and start the political prcoess so that other matters; administrative, economic and Constitutional; can proceed smoothly. This I think is the aim of every Member of this House and of every person in this country. Thank you.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I strongly condemn the atrocities being committed on the Tamils in Sri Lanka and I walk-out.

(At this stage, the hon. Member left the Chamber)

SPECIAL MEETINGS

Reported sale of a woman by her husband in Dholpur, Rajasthan

SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH (Maharashtra): Madam, I would like to bring to the attention of this House a very serious problem confronting the womenfolk as a whole. The life of women in this country is becoming more and more insecure. It has deteriorated to such an extent that woman has become a commodity. I quote a newsitem which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times', dated 12th November, 1987

> "DHOLPUR, Nov. 11: A married woman was allegedly sold by her husband and father-in-law for Rs. 30,000 in Rahrai village of Bari police circle last week according to a delayed report received here today
>
> A complaint lodged with Sarmathu police station by the woman's brother said 22-year-old Munni was sold to Ramdayal of Rahrai village of the same area by her husband Shanaer Singh and father-in-law Shiv Charan.
>
> A raid by police in Rahrai village proved abortive as Ramdayal had eloped with Munni after locking his house."

Madam, this shows that woman has become a commodity in this country. Only the other day, the incident of Sati was discussed in this House. We were told of the serious circumstances under which the woman was forced to give up her life Here in another instance where a woman has been sold by her husband and father-in-law as if woman is a commodity After some time, we will hear that somebody has sold his child for a fancy amount. This has become a common feature. The other day, on the floor of this hon. House, it was said that girls were brought to Delhi and sold. It has